

(Washington, DC) Today on the House floor, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) congratulated Congressman Ted Deutch (D-Boca Raton) on his recent victory in the special election for Florida's 19th Congressional district. Deutch succeeds former Democratic Congressman Robert Wexler, who retired from the House of Representatives in January of 2010 to head the Center for Middle East Peace.

"Ted brings with him a common sense and results-driven approach that distinguished him during his time in the Florida State Senate, where he wrote and passed landmark legislation, including a health care bill that will raise \$1 billion for essential health services for Floridians," said Hastings.

Deutch had been a member of the Florida State Senate since 2007, where he served as Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Regulated Industries and the Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means.

"Throughout his career in public service, Ted has fought on behalf of those who risk losing the most, including seniors, working families, children, Holocaust survivors, veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and small businesses. He is a true defender of equal rights and stands firmly against discrimination in all its forms, whether it is based on race, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation," further noted Hastings.

Deutch is a widely-respected leader in the community and an active philanthropist. His efforts and dedication to public service have been recognized by the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County, which honored him with the James and Marjorie Baer Leadership Award. He also is the recipient of the Florida Education Association's Champion of Public Education Award and the prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship.

"I have worked alongside Ted as a leader in the community and as a legislator. I know him well and am confident that he will do an excellent job representing Florida's 19th Congressional district. It is an honor to welcome Ted into our Congressional family."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings is Vice Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, a senior member of the House Rules Committee, and Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission.

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